

Today's News - Friday, November 16, 2012

- Weinstein muses on Heathcote's elegant meditation "on the symbols and myths infusing domestic design" in "The Meaning of Home" (with a dab of "dissing of Modernism").
- Laccetti takes on how Hurricane Sandy "reveals the peril of density" and the "insane overdevelopment of our Atlantic shoreline" (but we wonder if density is really the problem - building so close to the water seems the bigger issue - to us, anyway).
- Filler finds inspiration in an Oslo exhibition that shows how "the urgent needs that follow large-scale catastrophes can be particularly conducive to creative solutions" with "breakthroughs in architecture and industrial design."
- Welton is wowed by Höweler + Yoon's "Shareway" that won the Audi Urban Future Award competition "handily" by approaching "the global problem of increasing road traffic with an elegant, revolutionary solution."
- Saffron explains "two equally seductive visions" for Philly's old Reading Railroad viaduct; one is a "low-line companion to the city's planned high line," the other a new high-speed bus line - both have "gripped local imaginations."
- Are Australian universities too much in the thrall of overseas starchitects, or would they be better served by local talent?
- A curious theory (that we're not so sure we buy into): in San Francisco, life without starchitects is just fine: "distinctive architecture is conspicuously lacking in the high-rise building boom."
- A judge grants temporary landmark status to Goldberg's Prentice Women's Hospital: "I'm not trying to prevent Northwestern from using the property as they see fit. I'm trying to get it right."
- Bernstein reports on the Chicago Architecture Foundation/AIA Chicago's "Reconsidering an Icon" exhibition presenting alternate proposals for Prentice "despite Northwestern University's recalcitrance."
- City of Dreams Pavilion 2012-2013 winner "Head in the Clouds" will be heading to Governors Island next summer (full disclosure: yours truly was a juror and gave it two thumbs-up!).
- An impressive list of winners in the inaugural Stanford White Awards for Excellence in Classical and Traditional Design (alas, no pix).
- Weekend diversions:
- Trailers for 15 "must-see films focused on one of the most enigmatic and conflicted characters in the world: the architect."
- Badger cheers "Grand Reductions" at San Francisco's SPUR: it "showcases the simple visualizations of complex ideas that have changed how we live" + the "fascinating" exhibit "unravels the ideals and anxieties lurking behind seemingly unassuming maps."
- Moonan marvels at Yale's George Nelson show that "illustrates a full-range of design invention; "He was a curator of life," says Stern." "Amen," says Moonan.
- Grabar has great fun at the NBMs "Play Work Build" show of a huge architectural toy collection: "a history of American architectural toys is a social history" (great pix, too!).
- Rago is enraptured by the 3-D glow-in-the-dark "Buckyball" in NYC's Madison Square Park, "its trippiest display yet (we've seen it - and it is!).
- Elias Redstone's "Archizines" exhibition in Dublin offers Irish architects novel ways "to break a few moulds without having to break ground."
- Lange queries Watts about her book on photographer Maynard L. Parker: "He was a merchandiser, showing people what they should buy and how they should live."
- Editor's note: this morning we witnessed (with some sadness) the wrapping, chopping down, and carting away of a neighbor's magnificent pine tree - but it's going to be the 2012 Bryant Park Christmas Tree!

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Book Review: The Pesky Persistence of Psychological Encounters with Home Design: Edwin Heathcote elegantly meditates on the symbols and myths infusing domestic design in "The Meaning of Home." By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow

Sandy reveals peril of density: It will take more than little red cans to address the root causes of this systemic collapse. First among these is the extremely high concentration of people throughout...[the] urban-suburban complex. Next is the insane overdevelopment of our Atlantic shoreline..."The whole aspect of Shore development is unstable." By Silvio Laccetti -- American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) - Philadelphia Inquirer

Design from Disasters: ...the urgent needs that follow large-scale catastrophes...can be particularly conducive to creative solutions...breakthroughs in architecture and industrial design have emerged during wartime; now a remarkable new exhibition in Oslo shows that the same can hold true for natural disasters as well..."Design Without Borders: Creating Change" at Norsk Form... By Martin Filler [images, links] - New York Review of Books

Would You Share Your Family's Car Or Home, If It Meant Freedom? ...Höweler + Yoon won Audi's Audi Urban Future Award competition handily...Their entry approached the global problem of increasing road traffic with an elegant, revolutionary solution..."Shareway"... "shared is not incompatible with the American Dream. In fact, there's more freedom." By J. Michael Welton [images] - Huffington Post

Tempting twin visions: The old Reading Railroad...could be an urban park or a new high-speed bus line. Or both...The idea of creating a low-line companion to Philadelphia's planned high line [Reading Viaduct] has gripped imaginations...just earmarked...for a high-speed bus route...This idea, too, has gripped local imaginations...two equally seductive visions for public improvements. By Inga Saffron -- Paul van Meter; Olin; Bohlin Cywinski Jackson; CVM; Studio Bryan Hanes [images] - Philadelphia Inquirer

Overseas 'starchitects' don't always outshine locals: As universities...assert their international credentials...in the hope of wooing students by commissioning the likes of Frank Gehry, Moshe Safdie and Peter Cook, would [they] have been better served by a local architect? -- Sean Godsell; Tom Kvan; Norman Foster; Renzo Piano; John Denton/Denton Corker Marshall/DCM; John Wardle; Nader Tehrani/NADAAA- Sydney Morning Herald

In San Francisco, Life Without 'Starchitects': The city is more interested in conserving its old Victorian-style homes than in making a statement...distinctive architecture is conspicuously lacking in the high-rise building boom...a puzzling phenomenon..."It's business without heart"... -- William Pereira; Frank Gehry; Handel Architects; Richard Meier; Norman Foster; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM)- New York Times

Judge prevents demolition of former Prentice Women's Hospital — for now: ...granted temporary landmark status...needed to provide a legal "bubble around the building" to protect its integrity. "I'm not trying to prevent Northwestern from using the property as they see fit. ... I'm trying to get it right"... By David Roeder and Terry Savage -- Bertrand Goldberg (1975) [slide show] - Chicago Sun-Times

Proposals for Chicago's Prentice Women's Hospital Face Apathy from Northwestern University: The Chicago Architecture Foundation and AIA Chicago go on with a show of schemes from the design community, despite the university's recalcitrance..."Reconsidering an Icon: Creative Conversations About Prentice Women's Hospital"... By Fred A. Bernstein -- Bertrand Goldberg (1975); Cyril Marsollier/Wallo Villacorta; Kujawa Architecture; Jeanne Gang/Studio Gang; Noel Turgeon/Natalya Egon [images] - Architectural Record

City of Dreams Pavilion 2012-2013 winner announced: Pending agency and approvals and fundraising, "Head in the Clouds" will be assembled on Governors Island next spring, and will be open to the public for the summer 2013 season. -- Studio Klimoski Chang Architects [images] - FIGMENT/ENYA/AIANY/SEAoNY

Winners announced in the inaugural Stanford White Awards for Excellence in Classical and Traditional Design -- Ferguson & Shamamian Architects; Peter Pennoyer Architects; Robert A.M. Stern Architects; Ferguson & Shamamian Architects; Wright Architects/Richard Cameron; John B. Murray Architect; David Scott Parker Architects; Zivkovic Connolly Architects/John Simpson & Partners; George Ranalli, Architect; Edmund D. Hollander Landscape Architects; Franck & Lohsen Architects - Institute of Classical Architecture & Art (ICAA)

15 Essential Films About Famous Architects: ...our picks for must-see films focused on one of the most enigmatic and conflicted characters in the world: the architect. -- Eduardo Souto de Moura; Charles and Ray Eames; Frank Gehry; Louis Kahn; Julius Shulman; John Lautner; Samuel Mockbee/Rural Studio; Buckminster Fuller; Frank Lloyd Wright; Antonio Gaudi; Tadao Ando; Sverre Fehn; Toyo Ito; Maya Lin; Rem Koolhaas; Philip Johnson; Norman Foster [videos]- Flavorwire

The Evolution of Urban Planning in "Grand Reductions: Ten diagrams that changed urban planning": A new exhibit from the San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association [SPUR] showcases the simple visualizations of complex ideas that have changed how we live. By Emily Badger -- Ebenezer Howard (1903); Le Corbusier (1933); Frank Lloyd Wright; Jean Gottman (1961); Andres Duany; Giambattista Nolli (1748); Kevin Lynch (1960) [images]- The Atlantic Cities

This Is Fascinating: Historic Diagrams That Shaped The Modern City: A new exhibition unravels the ideals and anxieties lurking behind seemingly unassuming maps. "Grand Reductions: 10 Diagrams That Changed Planning" at San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association/SPUR Urban Center [images]- Architizer

"George Nelson: Architect, Writer, Designer, Teacher": Retrospective at Yale Examines the Designer's Legacy: ...illustrates a full-range of design invention..."He was a curator of life"...Amen. By Wendy Moonan -- Robert A.M. Stern; Jochen Eisenbrand [slide show]- Architectural Record

Lessons From the Nation's Biggest Architectural Toy Collection: A 20th century American childhood, all in one room...were sold to parents as an education in logic disguised for children as fun...would showcase your child's inner gifts...More than craftsmanship and construction, a history of American architectural toys is a social history. "PLAY WORK BUILD" at the National Building Museum. By Henry Grabar [images]- The Atlantic Cities

"Buckyball" Lights Up NYC's Madison Square Park: ...latest display, by New York City-based artist Leo Villareal, is its trippiest yet...a 30-foot, three-dimensional, neon-lit geodesic sculpture...glow-in-the-dark statue is on view through February 1, 2013. By Danielle Rago -- Buckminster Fuller [images]- Architizer

What Irish architecture could learn from zine culture: Zines offer Irish architects a novel chance to break a few moulds without having to break ground...Elias Redstone's "Archazines" exhibition [NCAD Gallery, Dublin] presents an archive of current self-published titles in architecture.- Irish Times

A Wide-Angle Lens on the Midcentury American Home: Q&A with Jennifer A. Watts, editor of "Maynard L. Parker: Modern Photography and the American Dream": What was his special talent? "Showcasing residential interiors for a new American way of living. He was a merchandiser, showing people what they should buy and how they should live." By Alexandra Lange- New York Times



- OMGEVING: Boekenberg Park, Deurne, Belgium
- schmidt hammer lassen: New Library, University of Aberdeen, Scotland
- Steven Holl Architects: Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki, Finland

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